

REMARKS

Independent claim 1, as originally drafted, lacked antecedent basis for the term "said surface." This term has been replaced with "said chuck" which has an antecedent basis.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, contending that these claims were obvious variants of the claims of applicant's prior U.S. Patent Nos. 6,639,415; 6,489,789; 6,362,636; 6,002,263; 6,288,557; 5,457,398; and 5,266,889. The Examiner's rejection with respect to U.S. Patent Nos. 6,639,415; 6,489,789; 6,362,636; 6,002,263; and 6,288,557 is overcome by the enclosed terminal disclaimer.

With respect to the remaining two patents, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,457,398 and 5,266,889, each of these patents issued more than a year before the earliest priority date of the present application, hence a terminal disclaimer directed to these patents would serve no purpose. Furthermore, independent claim 1 of the present application, from which the remaining claims depend, includes the limitations of "a plurality of electrically conductive members, each . . . at least partially enclosing said chuck" and "a selector member having a plurality of positions, one said position electrically isolating said electrically conductive members from each other and another said position electrically interconnecting one said conductive member with at least one other said conductive member." None of the claims in either of the '398 or the '889 patents suggest such a selector member. The claims of the '889 patent include no element similar to the "selector member" claimed in the present application. The '398 patent claims a "connector member" that establishes substantially the same nonzero electrical potential between an outer "shield" enclosure and respective *chuck* elements that are *always* electrically isolated from each other. Thus even if the two chuck elements of the '398 patent could be considered "conductive members" within the meaning of independent claim 1 (which they cannot because the two chuck

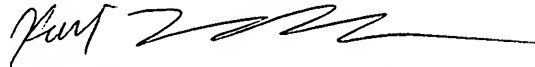
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Appl. No. 10/615,724
Amdt. dated August 5, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 24, 2004

elements, being part of the chuck, cannot “at least partially surround” the chuck) the “selector member” of claim 1 of the present application is still patentably distinct from the “connector member” of the ’889 patent.

Respectfully submitted,



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